

Silver Street, Inc.

892 Industrial Park Drive, Shelby, MI 49455-0195



May 7, 2013

Re: State House Energy and Technology Committee - Expanding Deregulation

To: Members of the House Energy and Technology Committee:

My name is Craig Hardy, and I am the President and co-founder of Silver Street, Inc. We are a company located in Western Michigan about 30 miles North of Muskegon in the Village of Shelby. I am writing this letter to express my thoughts in regards to your current deliberation to expend energy deregulation in the State of Michigan.

Silver Street, Inc. was founded in 1979 in Elkhart, IN and we moved to Michigan in 1984. We currently employ 70 people and manufacture school and library furniture. I'm very proud to say that our company has expanded every year since 1999 and we expect continued growth for 2013 as well. Our company has grown with the support of our local community, the State of Michigan, our utility suppliers and by our commitment to continued long-term investment in our future.

Your current debate on the energy policy should consider the value of a policy over a long period of time and not be targeted to short-vision policies and short-term rate reductions. The 2008 energy law helped retain competition by reserving 10 percent of the state's electrical load for alternate energy suppliers and enabled both Consumers Power and DTE Energy to create plans for the future long-term growth of our state's energy requirements.

Reduced costs for raw materials, services and utilities are important things to consider for every business but the reliability of a supplier and their continued commitment to our company has proven over time to be the greatest value. We understand that there are other companies that put short-term gains over long term plans but we aren't one of those. It is our opinion that the current laws governing the power utilities are working the way they were intended too. Expanding deregulation would not be in the best long-term interest of the state's energy supply or our company. As reported by OpenSecrets.org – "Among the 24 states that have enacted electricity deregulation plans, results are mixed. Rising prices, skyrocketing demand, and limited supply in some areas have raised questions about the viability of deregulation".

It is my opinion that the reforms adopted in 2008 are addressing our current needs and will ensure that we will have affordable and reliable electrical supplies for the future.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Craig Hardy".

Craig Hardy
President